



HEALTH
5 NOV 1945

WHICKHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1944.

SWALWELL,

A. A. FLETCHER & SON, GENERAL PRINTERS, FOUNDRY LANE,
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Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—

H. MORRISON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H., L.S.A. (Lond.).

Sanitary Inspector—

GEO. E. HARDY, CERT. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., CERT. R.S.I. Meat
and Other Foods.

Clerk and Pupil Sanitary Inspector—

GEO. OXLEY, (In H.M. Forces from 17/6/42).

Temporary Clerk—

DOUGLAS J. MASON, (From August 28th, 1944).

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
WHICKHAM,

AUGUST, 1945.

*To The Chairman and Members
of the Whickham Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report, being that for the year 1944.

The work of the Department in connection with the Environmental Health and Civil Defence (Casualty) Services is similar to that performed during 1943, including also supervision of Evacuees.

The Housing position shows more demand for accommodation, but, if anything, the difficulties regarding labour and materials have been accentuated, until further demobilisation takes place.

With regard to Infectious Diseases, it will be noticed that there has been a slight decrease in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified, and also in the figures for Measles, but Diphtheria was more prevalent.

Details of treatment instituted under the Scabies Order, 1941, are given elsewhere in the Report.

Statistical tables are appended, including extracts from those of the Registrar General.

I have considerable pleasure in recording my appreciation of the loyal co-operation and helpfulness extended by the members of the Health Department throughout the year, also

by the local Medical Practitioners, Voluntary Helpers of the Dunston Welfare Centre, ex-members of First Aid Staff, and St. John Nursing Division, for assistance in the Immunisation Clinics at Whickham and Dunston.

My thanks are also due to the Chief Financial Officer, the Surveyor, the Nursing Association, and to the Manager of the Dunston Labour Exchange for items of information included in this Report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. MORRISON,

M.B., B.HY., D.P.H., L.S.A. (LOND.)

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

Statistics.

- 1—Area, in acres - 6,229,
- 2—Population - 1931 Census - 20,750.
The Registrar General's estimate of population for mid-1944 is 21,050.
- 3—Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944, according to the Rate Book - 6,264.
- 4—Rateable Value - December 1944 - £167,242.
- 5—Sum represented by 1d Rate - £665.

Social Conditions and Physical Features of the Area.

The Whickham Urban District is situated in the North-west of Durham County, and consists of four Wards, namely Dunston, Swalwell, Whickham and Marley Hill. The district is bounded to the north by the River Tyne, to the West by the River Derwent, to the east by the County Borough of Gateshead and the Chester-le-Street Rural District, and to the south by the Stanley Urban District.

- 1—DUNSTON This Ward represents the largest proportion of the population of the district, and while it was at one time chiefly industrial, it is becoming more residential, due to the amount of building that has been undertaken during the past few years. The industries include Heavy Industries, Flour Mills, Soap Works, Shipping, Power Station, and Coal Mining.
- 2—SWALWELL. This Ward is largely industrial, chiefly Coal mining, Brickworks and Ironworks.

3—WHICKHAM (including Sunnyside.) This Ward is mainly rural, and though residential for the greater part, is partly industrial, including Coal Mining.

4—MARLEY HILL. This Ward is very scattered, and essentially rural. Coal mining is the chief industry.

There has not been any alteration in the boundaries of the Urban District during 1944.

Unemployment.

Unemployment shows a slight decrease.

I append figures supplied by Mr. Sishpool of the Dunston Labour Exchange, showing the position in preceding years: —

1935 - 1301	1938 - 800	1941 - 50
1936 - 1001	1939 - 517	1942 - 48
1937 - 650	1940 - 300	1943 - 70
		1944 - 50

I am informed that of the 50 persons unemployed at the end of 1944 almost all suffered from some physical defect which severely limited their prospects of obtaining employment.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the Year.

Births.

The total number of births registered during 1944 was 395, of which 212 were male and 183 were female, and of the above total 23 were illegitimate. The natural increase of the population of the area (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) was 140. Of 17 still-births registered, all were legitimate.

For comparative purposes, I append the 1943 figures:—

Number of live births	...	348 (174 M., 174 F.)
Number of illegitimate births		10
Number of still-births	...	16

The birth rate for the year was 18·76 (17·12 for 1943). This compares favourably with the birth rate for England and Wales at 17·6, and is lower than the administrative County of Durham at 20·9.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 17 infantile deaths recorded (9 male and 8 female), giving an infantile mortality rate of 43·04. This compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales at 46 and for the administrative County of Durham at 61.

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal death was recorded during the year. The figure for 1943, was 2·74.

The figure for England and Wales was 1·53 (England and Wales, 1943 - 1·84).

The figure for Durham County, 1944, is 2·54 (Durham County, 1943 - 2·81).

Deaths.

The total number of deaths during 1944 was 255, of which 142 were male and 113 were female, giving an annual death rate of 12·11 per 1,000 population. The 1943 death rate was 13·09.

Death rate for England and Wales = 11·6 per 1,000.

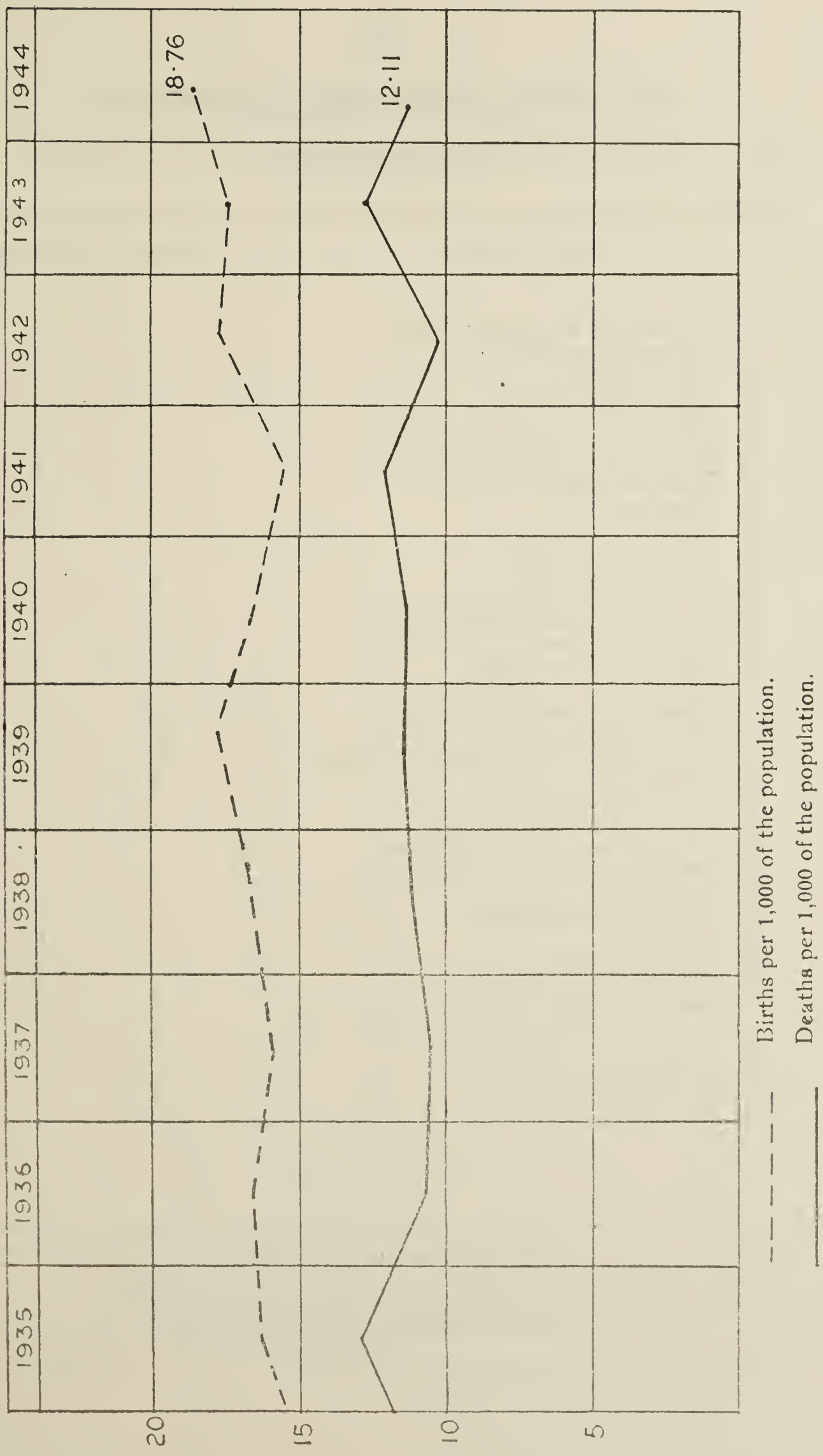
Death rate for Durham County = 12·0 per 1,000.

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Heart Disease	74;	Other circulatory diseases	17;
Cancer	37;	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	32;
Respiratory diseases	24.		

The graph on page 9 shows the birth and death rates from 1935 to 1944, and on page 11 a graph showing the infantile mortality rate in the Whickham area for the 25 years period, 1919 - 1944.

Graph shewing Birth and Death Rates in Whickham Area for 10 years—1935-44.



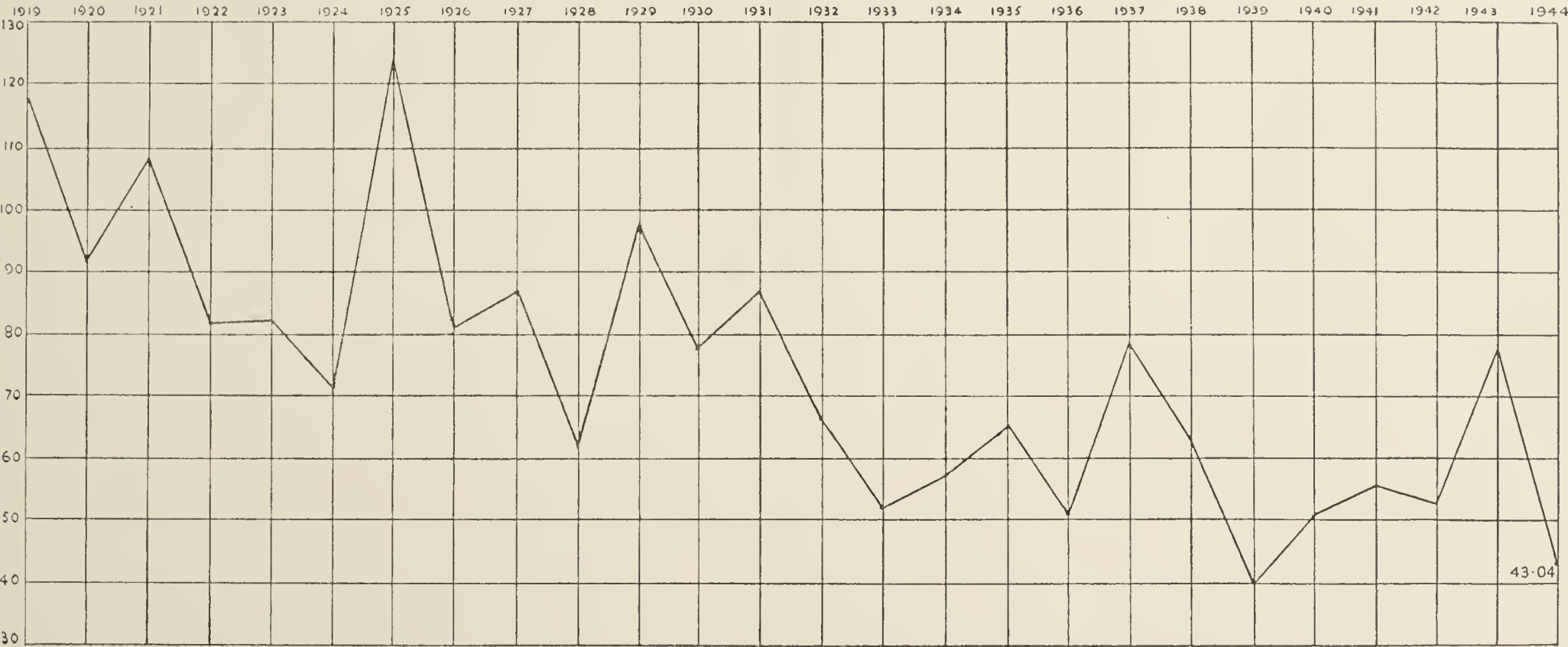
**THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF
DEATH DURING 1944.**

CAUSES OF DEATH			MALES	FEMALES
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	—	—
2	Cerebro Spinal Fever...	...	1	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	1	—
5	Diphtheria	...	1	2
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	7	7
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	2	1
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	—	1
9	Influenza	...	2	2
10	Measles	...	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—
12	Acute Encephalitis	...	1	—
13	Cancer of C. Cav.	...	3	3
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	..	8	6
15	Cancer of Breast	...	—	2
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	11	4
17	Diabetes	...	1	1
18	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	19	13
19	Heart Diseases	...	41	33
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	9	8
21	Bronchitis	...	3	2
22	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	4	1
23	Other Respiratory diseases	...	—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	—	—
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	—	1
26	Appendicitis	...	—	1
27	Other digestive diseases	...	4	1
28	Nephritis	...	2	8
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	—
30	Other Maternal causes	...	—	—
31	Premature Birth	...	3	4
32	Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	...	2	3
23	Suicide	...	1	—
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	—	1
35	Other Violent Causes	...	3	—
36	All other causes	...	13	8
ALL CAUSES —			142	113

Total Number of Deaths - 255.

(Including 65 deaths of residents dying outside the area,
and less deaths of 30 non-residents).

Graph shewing the Infantile Mortality Rate in the Wickham Area since 1919.



Laboratory Facilities.

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Department of King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with which the Durham County Council has an agreement.

The majority of such specimens are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

Bacteriological Examinations from Whickham District, 1944.

ENTERIC FEVER.				DIPHTHERIA			TUBERCULOSIS		* MISCELL- ANEOUS			TOTALS		
Serological Exams.														
Positive		Negative	Inconclusive											
Typh- osus	Para- typh- osus B.													
—	—	2	—	P	N	I	P	N	P	N	I	P	N	I
				48	196	1	28	126	1	8	—	77	330	1

P - Positive.

N - Negative.

I - Inconclusive.

*This section comprises examinations for *Brucella Abortus*, Haemolytic Streptococci, Enteric Groups, Diphtheria Virulence, and Diphtheria direct swab, which have been specially approved by the County Medical Officer.

407 specimens were examined in 1944.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Council provides an Ambulance for the conveyance of non-infectious cases.

The Conjoint Hospital Board for Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham provides an Ambulance for the transport of infectious cases to Norman's Riding Hospital.

Nursing in the Home.

District Nursing throughout the Whickham area is carried on most efficiently by Queen's Nurses appointed by the Whickham & District Nursing Association, a body maintained by voluntary effort. Subscriptions are made by the majority

of workmen, who allow deductions from their wages. Generous donations are given by the many well-wishers in the district.

The Association has now adopted the recommendations of the "Rushcliffe" Report with regard to Nurses' Salaries.

Record of Nursing Work, 1944-45.

	Dunston	Whickham	Swalwell	Marley Hill and Sunniside	Total
On books, April 1st, 1944 ...	16	12	8	15	51
New Cases, Medical ...	45	26	38	41	150
" " Surgical ...	69	61	59	76	266
Cases Nursed ...	131	99	105	132	467
" Convalescent ..	95	66	74	103	338
" Sent to Hospital ..	—	7	8	5	20
" Died ..	17	10	13	12	52
Total Number of Visits ...	2810	1520	2237	1823	8390
On books, March 31st, 1945	18	10	10	12	50

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Facilities for the treatment of minor ailments in school children, together with Sun-ray, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis. and Dental Treatment are made available by Durham County Council at various centres within the area.

Hospital Accommodation.

(a) **Infectious Diseases.** The Conjoint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Norman's Riding, Winlaton, serves the needs of the Whickham, Blaydon and Ryton areas.

In the event of Smallpox occurring in the district, the Joint Hospital Committee has made provision for such cases to be treated at Langley Park Hospital under the County Smallpox Scheme.

(b). **Tuberculosis.** Durham County Council has provided various sanatoria for the treatment of tuberculosis cases throughout the county; the number of beds available for this purpose is 536. A tuberculosis dispensary is situated at Whickham.

(c) **General.** The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, receives the greater proportion of medical and surgical cases from the Whickham district, and also provides a convalescent home for both males and females, which is situated on the western boundary of the Ryton Urban District. 100 beds are available. Provision for the treatment of surgical cases is also available at the Whickham & District War Memorial Cottage Hospital 30 beds are available.

(d) **Midwifery and Gynaecology.** Of those midwifery and gynaecological cases sent to hospital, most of them find their way to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital and to the Gynaecological Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

(e) **Venereal Disease.** The County Council has an arrangement whereby such cases are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1—**Water Supply.** There were no extensions to the public water supply during 1944. Only 5 houses lack a piped supply and are otherwise satisfactorily supplied.

Part of the area is supplied by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co., and part by the Durham County Water Board. Both supplies are subject to periodical sampling for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

2—**Rivers and Streams.** No action taken.

3—**Closet Accommodation.** At the end of 1944 there were 6,391 Water Closets and 173 Ash Closets in the area.

The following table shows the number of Water-closets and Ash-closets in the area during the past 10 years.

Years	Water Closets.	Ash Closets.
1935	5350	168
1936	5883	355
1937	6221	353
1938	6370	310
1939	6381	187
1940	6381	183
1941	6380	179
1942	6380	179
1943	6391	173
1944	6391	173

The increase in 1936 was due to the boundary extension.

Of the 173 ash-closets now remaining a number are used in connection with dwelling houses, which, but for the war, would have been included in a slum-clearance area, and will doubtless be so dealt with when such a course again becomes available.

The remainder, almost without exception, are situated in such remote parts of the area as are not yet served by a public sewer.

4—Public Cleansing. The following information relating to Public Cleansing has been supplied to me by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

Scavenging of Roads and Streets.

The orderly trunck system of cleansing still continues with satisfactory results, but owing to labour and war conditions the frequency of sweeping has had to be curtailed on some of the less important streets.

Refuse Collection.

100% of this service is executed by mechanical vehicles. Collection takes place once per week, and more often in the case of business premises and butchering shops where required.

91 tons of waste materials have been salvaged, which has resulted in an improved condition of the tips, in addition 326 tons of kitchen waste was collected for processing as animal feeding stuff.

The number of tons of Refuse collected during the year was 7,614, and the number of houses and other premises served is 6,020. The weight per 1,000 population per day is 18·44 cwts., and the method of disposal is by means of tipping.

5—Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

SUMMARY of Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the year 1944 in the URBAN DISTRICT of WHICKHAM.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.		Number of Informal written notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding ...	9 272	8	9 267	
Lodging-houses	... ..			
Dairies and Milkshops	... ..			
Cowsheds	... ..			
Bakehouses	... ..			
Slaughter-houses	... ..			
Ashpits and Privies	... ..	5		5	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	... ..	5		5	
Waterclosets...	... ..	57		55	
Defective Yard Paving	... ..			
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	22		22	
	No disconnection from sewers				
	Other Faults ...	47		45	
Water Supply	... ..	33		33	
Pigsties	... ..			
Animals Improperly Kept	... ..			
Offensive Trades	... ..			
Smoke Nuisances	... ..	7		7	
Other Nuisances	... ..			
Defective & insufficient Dust Bins	... ..	127	2	127	
Factories Act, 1937	... ..			
Shops Act (Sec. 10 - 12)	... ..			
TOTALS		584	10	575	

Inspector's Report continued:-

	Number	Remarks.
II. WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS		
Samples of Water taken for analysis	1	Satisfactory (Main supply)
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	—	31 lots comprising— Meat - 24 tins, 325 lbs. Milk - Condensed 22 tins Vegetables - 16 tins Jam - 3 tins and 20 jars Fish - 13 tins Fish - Wet 98 lbs. Fruit - 1 tin Fruit - Dried 29 lbs. Spices - 7 jars Rice - 1 ton (Ground) Paste - Meat 3 jars Soup - 3 tins (Veg.) Soup - 1 tin (Meat)
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	—	
Unwholesome Food surrendered by Traders	31 lots	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	—	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	57 ★	
		★ (Milk for Bacteriological Exam'tn)
III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	170	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	166	
Schools do. do.	2	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	—	
Convictions for do. do. do.	—	
IV. GENERAL.		
Number of New Houses erected during the year	—	
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	—	
Ash-pit privies converted into Ash- closets	—	
do. do. Water-closets	Nil.	but 4 converted into chemical closets
Ash-closets do. do. ...	Nil	but 3 converted into chemical closets
Total number of Water-closets in District	6391	(all in factory premises in Dunston area)
do. Ash-closets do	173	
do. Ashpit-privies do	—	

GEORGE E. HARDY,
Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	15	1	—
Factories without mechanical power	6	1	—
*Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
*Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. TOTAL ...	21	2	—

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found,	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (s. 1)	2	2		
Overcrowding (s. 2)	—	—		
Unreasonable temperature (s. 3)	—	—		
Inadequate ventilation (s. 4)	—	—		
Ineffective drainage of floors (s. 6)... ..	1	1	1	
Sanitary Conveniences (s. 7) { insufficient	1	1		
{ unsuitable or defective	—	—		
{ not separate for sexes	—	—		
Other offences	—	—		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the sections mentioned in the schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories & Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Total ...	4	4	1	

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES,

(Section 108 of Act of 1901; Section III of Act of 1937)

NATURE OF WORK.	Instances	Notices served.	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, etc., ...			
Cleaning and washing ...			
Household linen ...			
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...			
Curtains and furniture hangings ...			
Furniture and upholstery ...			
Electro-plate ...			
File making ...			
Brass and brass articles ...			
Fur pulling ...			
Cables and chains ...			
Anchors and Grapnels ...			
Cart gear ...			
Locks, latches and keys ...			
Umbrellas, &c. ...			
Artificial flowers ...			
Nets, other than wire nets ...	nil.	nil.	nil.
Tents ...			
Sacks ...			
Racquet and tennis balls ...			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags ...			
Brush making ...			
Pea picking ...			
Feather sorting ...			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c, ...			
Stuffed toys ...			
Basket making ...			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, ...			
Christmas stockings, etc. ...			
Textile weaving ...			
Lamp Shades ...			
Total ...	nil.	nil	nil.

Smoke Abatement.

No smoke observations were taken during 1944.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the Area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The following houses were found to be infested in varying degrees:—

Council Houses	...	1
Other Houses	...	4

The method of eradication is by spraying with "Zaldecide" an insecticide manufactured by Messrs Newton, Chambers & Co. A second spraying is done after a lapse of 10 - 14 days, in order to kill any bugs which may have hatched since the initial spraying.

This method is attended with a reasonable degree of success depending largely on the willingness of the tenant to co-operate in this work.

Disinfestation is carried out by a servant of the Council, under direction of this department.

Housing.

The housing shortage in the area is acute, and seems likely to deteriorate still further, some 1,350 applications being on our files at the end of 1944.

The demand for houses far exceeds the supply and in 1944 only 11 Council houses became vacant during the year.

While the movement of population prevents the compilation of reliable statistics regarding overcrowding, there is no doubt that it is on the increase, due largely to young couples continuing to live with their parents after marriage.

The following table shows the houses allocated during the year:-

Ward.	Bungalows	2 bedrooms	2 bedrooms Do'nstairs. Flats	3 bedrooms	3 bedrooms Upstairs Flats	4 bedrooms	Total
Whickham .	1	3	—	—	—	—	4
Dunston	4	—	—	1	—	—	5
Marley Hill	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Swalwell ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total ...	5	3	—	2	—	1	11

Housing Statistics for 1944.

1—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1—(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 450

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 565

2—(a) Number of dwelling houses (including under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925, Nil.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil.

3—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil.

4—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 381

2—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 360

3—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-- | | | | |
| (a) By Owners | .. | ... | ... | nil. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | | | | 5 |
| (These were notices outstanding from previous year) | | | | |

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts—*

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | 29 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:— | | | | |
| (a) By Owners | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | | | | 2 |

(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—*

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | nil. |

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—*

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil. |

***4—Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.**

a—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of families dwelling therein				...	—
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein				...	—
b—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	—
c—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases				...	26
d—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	..	...	...	...	1
(This case was caused by a family being moved from a bombed area).					

* Owing to the movement of population consequent upon the war, reliable figures are not available.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There are 19 milk producers in the area, of whom three hold licenses to sell "accredited" milk.

The supervision of the milk supply continued to receive careful attention during the year. Every endeavour has been made to maintain the standard of supervision at pre-war level, and it will be seen from the accompanying table that the position is fairly satisfactory.

Sample No.	Grade.	Methylene Blue	B. Coliform.
1/44	Ordinary ...	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...
2/44	"	"	Not quite sat'fy.
3/44	Accredited ...	"	Satisfactory
4/44	Ordinary ...	"	Not quite sat'fy.
5/44	"	"	Satisfactory ..
6/44	"	"	"
7/44	"	"	"
8/44	"	"	"
9/44	"	"	"
10/44	"	"	"
11/44	"	"	"
12/44	"	"	"
13/44	"	"	Unsatisfactory
14/44	Accredited ...	"	Satisfactory ...
15/44	Ordinary ...	"	"
16/44	"	"	"
17/44	"	"	"
18/44	"	"	Unsatisfactory
19/44	"	"	Satisfactory ...
20/44	"	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
22/44	Ordinary ...	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...
23/44	"	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...
24/44	Accredited ...	"	"
25/44	Ordinary ...	"	"
26/44	"	Unsatisfactory	"
27/44	"	Satisfactory ...	"
28/44	"	"	"
29/44	"	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
30/44	"	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...
31/44	"	Satisfactory ...	"
32/44	Accredited ...	"	"
34/44	Ordinary ...	Satisfactory ..	Satisfactory ...
35/44	"	"	"
36/44	"	"	"
37/44	"	Not quite sat'fy.	"
38/44	"	Satisfactory ...	"
39/44	"	"	"
40/44	"	Unsatisfactory	"
41/44	"	"	"
42/44	"	"	"
43/44	"	"	"
44/44	Accredited ...	Satisfactory ...	"
45/44	Ordinary ...	"	"
46/44	Accredited ...	"	Unsatisfactory
47/44	Ordinary ...	"	Satisfactory ...
48/44	"	"	"
49/44	"	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
50/44	"	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...
51/44	"	"	"
52/44	"	"	"
53/44	"	Unsatisfactory	"
54/44	"	"	"
55/44	"	Satisfactory ...	"
56/44	"	"	"
57/44	"	"	"
		Phosphatase Test.	Plate Count.
21/44	Pasteurised ...	Satisfactory ...	Satisfactory ...
33/44	Pasteurised ...	Ind. slight errors	Unsatisfactory

Graded Milks.

There are three "accredited" herds in the district.

During the year under review, the following licences were issued by the Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

One dealer's licence to sell Pasteurised Milk.

Two supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised Milk.

There are no Pasteurising Plants in this area.

Food & Drugs Act, 1939.

During the year, 48 samples of milk were submitted to King's College Laboratory, for biological examination for the presence of Tubercle. 2 of these samples proved positive and were reported to the County Authorities. The two guilty cows were immediately traced at the farms concerned and slaughtered under the T. B. Order.

Meat and Foods.

As from 15th January, 1940, all slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption was carried out in premises occupied by the Crown. The meat for this area is slaughtered in Newcastle upon Tyne and distributed from a Distributing Depot in the Dunston Area. Tinned Foods, Fish, etc., are dealt with in retail shops; the shopkeepers co-operate very well in notifying the Sanitary Inspector of any suspected food.

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious Diseases.

483 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified in the Whickham district during 1944, as compared with 594 in 1943, a decrease of 111. Of the total number notified, 195 were cases of Measles (decrease of 111); 76 cases of Scarlet Fever; 41 cases of Pneumonia; and 92 cases of Diphtheria.

SMALLPOX.

There has been no case notified during 1944.

DIPHTHERIA.

92 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, (33 in 1943) and all of these were removed to hospital. There were 3 deaths from Diphtheria, none of which had been immunised.

SCARLET FEVER.

76 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year (108 in 1943) and of these 68 were removed to hospital, and 8 were nursed at home. There were no deaths.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 3 cases notified during the year (3 in 1943).

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

1 case was notified and removed to hospital, (6 in 1943). There was one death.

DYSENTERY.

1 case occurred.

ERYSIPELAS.

9 cases were notified during the year, (7 in 1943).

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

No cases were notified (0 cases in 1943).

PNEUMONIA.

41 cases as against 52 in 1943. 5 cases were fatal.

MEASLES.

195 cases were notified as against 310 in 1943.

WHOOPING COUGH.

44 cases were notified and 1 case was fatal, (72 cases in 1943).

ARTIFICIAL IMMUNISATION.

(a) Diphtheria prophylaxis was continued in the Whickham area during the year, and met with a steady response from parents; 80% of schoolchildren being thus protected, and 65% of children under 5 years of age. 343 children in all received the full course during the year, while 26 were partially protected.

At December, 1944, 3793 children had completed the full course of injections, while 296 children had been partially immunised.

Monthly clinics are held by local practitioners at Dunston Welfare Centre and at the Hermitage, Whickham.

(b) I am to record my thanks for the sterling voluntary assistance extended by many members of the A.R.P. Casualty Service throughout the year in connection with this necessary work.

(c) The prophylatic used for immunisation purposes is an Alum-Precipitated Toxoid produced by Messrs Burroughs Wellcome & Co.. two injections being given in each case.

PNEUMOCOCCAL TYPING.

There are no local facilities for the Typing of Pneumococci, although such facilities could, no doubt, be made available should the necessity arise.

MEASLES PROPHYLAXIS AND ATTENUATION.

At the present there are no local facilities available for the use of serum for Measles Prophylaxis or Attenuation; this also is a matter which, I have little doubt, could be given consideration should the necessity arise.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There was no action necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The graph on page 29 shews the incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Tuberculosis in the area for the ten years period, 1935 - 1944.

SCABIES.

During the year various visits and treatment were given under the Scabies Order, 1941. Written advice as to the best means of treatment was distributed and a suitable medication was made available to patients on application to the Public Health Department. Arrangements were made for treatment at Wellington Road, Dunston (gas cleansing centre.)

The majority of such cases were treated in the home, and observation kept on progress of cure.

Details of Treatment—

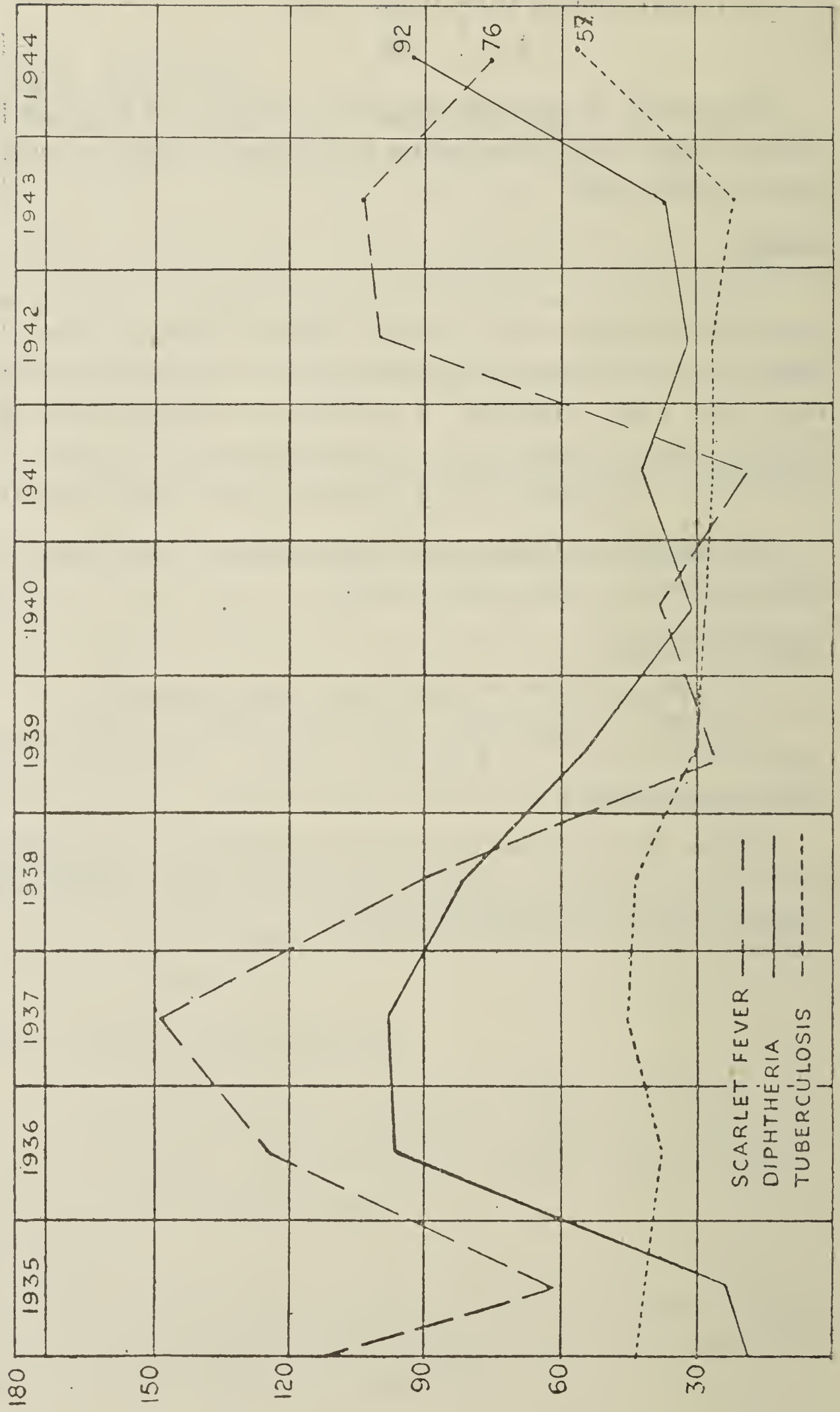
239 cases were recorded and given treatment.

316 cases were cured and removed from the register.

Evacuees Accommodated.

Under the Government dispersal scheme your area entertained from London localities, 559 mothers and children, as well as 13 aged and invalid persons.

Graph shewing incidence of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and Tuberculosis in the
Whickham Area during the 10 years 1935 - 1944.



30 **Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1944.**

DISEASES	Total Cases notified	AGE GROUPS.										Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths
		Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	25-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Unknown		
Smallpox	—												
Scarlet Fever	76		25	31	15	3	1					72	
Diphtheria	92	1	12	41	26	8	3					91	3
Enteric (Paratyphoid)	—												
Puerperal Fever	—												
Puerperal Pyrexia	—												
Erysipelas	9				1		1	1	3	2	1	1	
Measles	195	7	78	107	2						1		
German Measles	21		4	14	3								
Pneumonia	41	2	6	5		5	4	4	13	2		4	5
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	—												
Encephalitis Lethargica	—												
Whooping Cough	44	7	24	13									1
Cerebro Spinal Men.	1	1											1
Dysentery	1								1			1	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3											
	483	21	149	201	47	16	9	5	17	4	2	169	10

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1944.

Diseases.	Totals	MONTHS.												WARDS			
		Jan'y	Feb'y	March	April	May	June	July	Aug't	Sept.	Oct'er	Nov'r	Dec'r	Dunston	Wh'kam & Sunnyside	Swalwell	Mar. Hill
Smallpox	—																
Scarlet Fever	76	5	4	13	10	7	7	5	5	8	1	7	4	40	25	7	4
Diphtheria	92	6	3	14	12	2	3	3	6	10	23	7	3	40	27	21	4
Enteric (Paratyph'd)	—																
Puerperal Fever	—																
Puerperal Pyrexia	—																
Erysipelas	9	1	1	1	1	1					2	1	1	3	6		
Measles	195	2	3	1	—	2	4	4	6	17	109	30	17	158	27		10
German Measles	21	1		1	1	3	9	5	1					19	1		1
Pneumonia	41	1	4	12	4	6	2		4		3	3	2	24	12	1	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	—																
Encephalitis Leth'ca	—																
Whooping Cough	44	1		2	8	3	12	8	1	1	2	3	3	32	7		5
Cerebro-spin. Men....	1				1										1		
Dysentery	1				1												1
Ophthalmia Neon'um	3	1						1					1	2	1		
	483	18	15	44	38	24	37	26	23	36	140	51	31	218	107	29	29

Tuberculosis.

31

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	1	6	3	2	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	10	13	2	1	2	4	1	—
25 — 35	2	3	—	2	4	—	—	—
35 — 45	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	1
45 — 55	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	21	25	5	6	12	4	1	1

Sex	No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commencement of year.		No. of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at end of year.	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Male ...	116	91	131	94
Female ...	75	89	92	91
Total	191	180	223	185

Removals from Register.

Reasons.	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Died	12	4	1	1
Diagnosis not confirmed	3	—	—	—
Removed from district ..	14	7	3	3
Recovered	1	—	—	1
	27	11	4	5

Cases notified during 1944.

	Total	Dunston	Whic'ham	Mar. Hill	Swalwell
Respiratory	46	30	11	—	5
Non-Respiratory ...	11	6	4	—	1
Total	57	36	15	—	6

At the various Sanatorias provided by the County Council for institutional treatment there are 536 beds, for which there is still a considerable waiting list.

